

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Mongolia
Program Title:	Democratic Transition
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	438-002
Status:	Continuing
Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:	\$3,500,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$2,700,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 1996
Estimated Completion Date:	FY 2009

Summary: USAID's efforts to consolidate Mongolia's transition to democracy largely entail technical assistance and training aimed at reforming the judicial sector and making parliament and various competing political parties more effective. In addition, computer and other equipment, together with appropriate training, are being provided to Mongolian courtrooms to introduce transparency and accountability and improve efficiency.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2003 Program:

The current USAID strategy covers the period FY 1998 through FY 2003. A new document is now being drafted, one that will provide strategic direction for FY 2004-FY 2008. The main directions of that new strategy as it relates to democracy and good governance are already clear. First, USAID plans to deepen and possibly broaden USAID activity related to judicial reform. Second, efforts to improve political processes related to both parliament and the various political parties will continue, at least through the summer 2004 elections. Across the portfolio, USAID will also look for opportunities to strengthen accountability, transparency and broader public involvement on issues that are vital for maintaining and sustaining democracy in Mongolia.

Comprehensive Legal Reforms Implemented (\$2,800,000 ESF). USAID will assist Mongolian institutions to create and implement a continuing legal education program that helps shape a more competent, independent, ethical, transparent and effective judiciary. It will expand the number of courts benefiting from its ongoing computer automation program to encompass those handling at least 80 percent of the national case load. It will offer technical assistance across a full spectrum of judicial issues that affect Mongolia, with a view toward ensuring greater transparency and independence for the Mongolian judicial system. It will advise, provide equipment and help train the staff of a new anti-corruption unit in the prosecutor's office responsible for investigation and prosecution of crime within the judicial sector. Finally, it will carry out a continuing public information program designed to inform Mongolians about changes in the legal and judicial framework and the role that they can play to ensure effective implementation of these changes. The USAID-funded judicial reform program is implemented by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) in partnership with PACT.

Political Processes Made More Effective and Transparent (\$700,000 ESF). USAID will provide technical assistance and training to a wide spectrum of political parties in the lead-up to the next national elections, scheduled for summer 2004. Basic information on formulating positions, raising funds, promoting grassroots support and running effective election campaigns will be provided. USAID will also provide additional assistance to parliament with a view toward expanding public hearings and ensuring greater public involvement in and knowledge about the workings of parliament. Programs related to parliament and political party development are implemented by the International Republican Institute (IRI).

FY 2004 Program:

Comprehensive Legal Reforms Implemented (\$2,200,000 ESF). Virtually every courtroom will be computerized to the extent justified by its case load, location, willingness to implement reforms and access to the internet. This in turn will make a major contribution toward the more transparent and efficient administration of justice in Mongolia. USAID will support the full range of continuing legal education administered by Mongolian institution(s) in cooperation with the World Bank-financed building of a Judicial Research and Training Center. USAID will consider expanding the focus to include broader anti-corruption programs. It may expand training programs into other others with a view toward promoting judicial independence in Mongolia.

Political Processes Made More Effective and Transparent (\$500,000 ESF). Ongoing programs focused on parliament and political party development will be assessed following elections scheduled for summer 2004. Depending on that assessment, new programs will be shaped to respond to the needs and requirements of a new parliament. Efforts to promote transparency and greater sector involvement will almost certainly continue.

Performance and Results: Judicial reform is slow and requires a long-term commitment to achieve lasting results. The launch of a new automated case management system in 2002 was an especially notable development. Five pilot courts participated, representing both urban and rural jurisdictions. A key feature was the introduction of public access terminals, resulting in an unprecedented increase in transparency and accountability.

In addition, USAID cooperated with Germany to design and implement a series of training sessions aimed at introducing judges and other members of the judiciary to new civil and criminal codes that became effective in September 2002. Almost all of Mongolia's more than 300 judges participated. Also in connection with the new civil and criminal codes, USAID helped launch a national media campaign to help educate the broader public about Mongolia's changing judicial environment.

Finally, the presence of three long-term legal advisors provides important opportunities to comment and shape pending laws and legislation as they relate to the judiciary. During 2002, such advice strengthened transparency under a new ethics code, reduced opportunities for corruption under a new law on courts, promoted greater certainty in commercial transactions under a new civil code and protected the rights of citizens accused under a new criminal code. This kind of advice provided by on-site advisors who have become increasingly familiar with Mongolia's legal landscape does more than any number of workshops or study tours to help shape the country's legal system during a critical period in its development.

The smaller parliamentary and political party development program was revitalized in May 2002 with the signing of a new three-year agreement with the International Republican Institute (IRI). In September, IRI established a working group involving Mongolian parliamentarians. This, in turn, led to parliament's first ever committee hearings, in this case involving the proposed judicial budget.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Mongolia

438-002 Democratic Transition	DA	ESF	FSA
Through September 30, 2001			
Obligations	1,442	5,287	1,728
Expenditures	1,442	3,095	1,073
Unliquidated	0	2,192	655
Fiscal Year 2002			
Obligations	0	3,994	0
Expenditures	0	2,391	655
Through September 30, 2002			
Obligations	1,442	9,281	1,728
Expenditures	1,442	5,486	1,728
Unliquidated	0	3,795	0
Prior Year Unobligated Funds			
Obligations	0	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA			
Obligations	0	3,500	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003			
Obligations	0	3,500	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA			
Obligations	0	2,700	0
Future Obligations	0	0	0
Est. Total Cost	1,442	15,481	1,728